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# Advocate of Peace.

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## Secretary Knox's Note to the Powers.

The note of Secretary of State Knox to the powers, proposing that the International Prize Court established by the second Hague Conference be transformed into an International Court of Justice, has aroused much interest throughout this country. Many of the papers, daily and weekly, have commented favorably upon it, and the evidence is clear that practically the whole American public is in favor of the establishment of a High Court of Justice for the nations of the world at the earliest practicable moment. The same is probably true of well informed people in all the other nations.

The establishment of such an International Court of Justice is certain we think in the near future, though there may well be some difference of opinion as to the proper way in which it shall be done.

Up to the present time no responses to Secretary Knox's note have been received at Washington, at least none have been given out, so far as we have seen. There is, we think, liable to be, on the part of many of the powers, and possibly most of them, objection to the plan proposed by our State Department. The situation of the subject is about as follows:

The second Hague Conference established the International Prize Court, which consists of fifteen

judges appointed for six years and eligible for reappointment, of whom those from Germany, the United States, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia, will always sit when the Court is in session. The judges representing the other thirty-eight powers will sit in groups by rota as shown in a table annexed to the convention. The Conference also voted unanimously in favor of a regular International Court of Arbitral Justice, but could not agree on the method of appointing the judges.

The small powers in the Conference, thirty-six of them, probably consented to the form of the Prize Court, in which they are not represented equally with the great powers, because they were aware that the wars of the future, if there shall be any, will be likely to be between the great powers, and that hence they will have relatively little interest in the work of the Prize Court. They rejected, however, a similar scheme for the constitution of an International Court of Arbitral Justice, because in this they would all be vitally interested, and because they were unwilling to enter into any scheme which did not recognize their political equality with the larger powers and which would keep them always in vassalage to the stronger states. The minute, therefore, it is proposed to turn the Prize Court into a High Court of Justice to sit regularly, without waiting for any war, all of the small powers are likely to raise the same objection that they did when it was proposed to give them a position in the International Court of Arbitral Justice inferior to that of the great powers.

Is it not likely, therefore, that the smaller powers as a body will decline to accept the Knox proposal? And if they decline to accept it, is it probable that the great powers, who failed to secure the establishment of their scheme at the second Hague Conference, will push it through now on the suggestion of Mr. Knox, and thus run the risk of creating a chasm between themselves and the secondary powers? Is it not questionable also whether, if the Prize Court could be turned into a regular Court of Justice for the great powers in this manner, it would be at all judicious to have it done?

It is of the utmost importance that in the working out of these great world institutions, on which the peace of the future is to repose, the nations should move together as a body. The Hague Conferences have acted upon this principle.

It may well be questioned, therefore, by those who are the warmest possible friends of an International

Court of Justice, and approve heartily of the deep interest which our Department of State is taking in the subject, whether the effort to get such a Court established by any short cut which will create division among the nations and erect further barriers between them, is to be commended. At any rate, the question is worth serious consideration.

### The New England Peace Congress.

We invite special attention to the circular printed on another page announcing a Congress on Arbitration and Peace for the six New England States, to be held at Hartford and New Britain, Conn., May 8, 9, 10 and 11. This announcement has already gone out through the press to all New England. It will be widely distributed through other channels, and will be followed by further circulars as the arrangements proceed. The Committee on Organization, which has been formed at Hartford, is composed of strong men deeply interested in the cause. They are pushing the preparations with all possible dispatch. They have the cordial support of the Mayor and the other prominent citizens of Hartford. The program is now well under way, and among the speakers will be not only leading peace workers from New England, but also from New York, Washington and other places.

Considering the leading part which New England has always taken, and is now taking, in the peace movement, and the large number of prominent workers residing in this section, the Congress ought easily to be made one of the strongest and most influential ever organized, not excepting the great National Congresses held recently in New York and Chicago. It was not feasible this year to hold a National Congress, as there was no suitable opening. That will follow next year, and preliminary work for it has already begun. But it is expected that this New England Congress will be truly national in its work and influence, if not in form. It will give special consideration, as will be seen from the circular, to the great constructive measures which have occupied the attention of the Hague Conferences and are now receiving constant study in the national cabinets and by the statesmen of the world. But the ethical, educational, economic and other important aspects of the subject will be duly emphasized.

The Congress will be made all the more impressive by the fact that this year is the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Elihu Burritt, one of the greatest names in the history of the peace movement. It is proposed incidentally to make the Congress an occasion of honor to Burritt, and an evening session for this purpose will be held in New Britain, his birthplace.

Let all our friends in New England reserve the date and make arrangements to attend the Congress.

The Hartford people put themselves unreservedly at the service of all who shall attend, and will do all in their power to make the visitors comfortable and happy. Further information will be given in subsequent numbers of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*.

### Women in the Peace Movement.

To meet the numerous inquiries which we receive for information as to the part which women have taken and are taking in the peace movement, we give herewith a brief sketch, which is, of course, far from perfect.

Women came somewhat late into the peace movement. The early records of the peace societies show but few women's names, though there are some on the lists of contributors. This fact is to be accounted for, not through lack of interest, but because of the lateness of the emergence of women into public activities. For the last three or four decades women have been, in this country, quite as numerous as men in the peace organizations, and at the present time probably outnumber them. In Europe, with the exception of Great Britain, the number of women connected with the societies is not so large, though practically all of the general peace associations are open to them and they are more and more giving their support to the movement. From the point of view of genuine interest in the cause, that of women at the present time is probably, on the average, and for obvious reasons, wider and deeper than that of men, if one may judge from the numbers attending peace meetings and congresses.

It is not easy to give an accurate estimate of the influence which women have exerted in the promotion of the cause. It has probably been much larger than appears on the surface, for a great part of their influence has been exerted in other than public ways.

Among American women who have publicly advocated arbitration and peace, one of the earliest was Lucretia Mott. In her extensive travels in the first half of the last century she frequently gave addresses on the subject of peace, as well as that of the abolition of slavery. She was clear, strong and impressive in speech, and aroused thought and interest on the subject wherever she spoke. There is a tradition in Philadelphia, seemingly well founded, that when, near the close of the Civil War, the Alabama dispute was creating anxiety, she was the first to urge upon President Lincoln that the difficulty be submitted to arbitration. The credit of the actual inducement to follow that course belongs, however, to Thomas Balch, who, in 1864, while living in Paris, began to urge the arbitration of the controversy and continued to do so for several years on both sides of the Atlantic, until the Treaty of Washington was finally concluded.

Following the havoc of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-1871, a few women in this country and in Europe aroused themselves to see if something could not be done to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies. Both in France and in Switzerland women spoke and worked for peace.

In this country Julia Ward Howe conceived the idea of arousing the mothers of men to work for peace in the interest of the lives of their sons. She prepared a brief address to the women of the world, "praying them to